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Writer’s Statement: Writing Narrative

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When I first read the assignment overview for our writing narratives, I immediately knew what previous writing experience I wanted to write about. I wanted to describe, to my professor and my classmates, the incident that helped shape me as a writer and helped me develop some techniques that can hopefully help my future students as well. However, I also wanted to describe how, while the experience was influential and beneficial for me, there were other classmates of mine who did not thrive as well under the stringent conditions and techniques our English teacher at the time forced us to adhere to.

Before I began typing up my narrative, I sat down and outlined what it was about my experience that I wanted to be sure and cover. I laid out a brief diagram and jotted down some notes of the basic flow I felt my narrative should follow. When I began the actual writing, I began my narrative by discussing how I have not always seen myself as an English teacher, and I only recently found this to be the profession for me. However, I quickly found, through peer and teacher reviews, that there were a couple of points, in my introductory paragraph that were not being adequately developed and discussed through the remainder of the paper. For example, I claimed this former teacher of mine helped me in my decision to want to teach English, but this was not the exact sentiment I wanted to come across. I was not aware of this at first, and it was immensely helpful to have some outside opinions and feedback. I was more than willing to revisit my original statements to make sure what I really wanted to say was depicted accurately. Another thing I did with the process of this narrative was my marking of places in my original draft that my peers had questions about. I had never done that before with my writing, but I found it very helpful because it gave me a visual way to really analyze how my writing was laid out and where the questionable parts were.

While I feel that this narrative is an accurate description of one of my memorable writing experiences, I do feel there are areas for improvement. For example, I felt that I do have a tendency to tell bit more than show in my descriptions of some incidents. What might I do to help strengthen the visual and other sensory aspects of my descriptions? Also, what might be done to help make sure my statements and descriptions are a bit more succinct without falling back into the trap of simply “telling”?